

Presidency has deprived the State of nearly 20,000 heads of cattle per year. Although subsequent negotiations with the Madras Government have resulted in the granting of 600 cattle to the State, the cattle problem still continues to be difficult. Steps have been taken to conserve the existing cattle and increase cattle-farming by preventing indiscriminate slaughter of cattle, making liberal grants for the maintenance of stud bulls and purchase of a number of young bulls by the Government Central Farm for distribution to the public. The idea is to have at least one stud bull in each Panchayat area. A scheme for the wholesale improvement of cattle within a period of 20 to 25 years is also under consideration of Government.

Vegetable Cultivation.—In order to meet the shortage of vegetables in the State and to grow such varieties of vegetables which are now being imported from outside, like potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes, etc., Government have taken up a scheme for vegetable cultivation in the Nelliampathis. An area of 500 acres of forest land has been set apart for cultivation and arrangements have been made to plant 100 acres with fruit trees like oranges, plums, pears, plantains, pine-apples and mango trees. The remaining 400 acres will be put under potatoes and vegetable cultivation early in 1120. The capital expenditure for the scheme for 1119 and 1120 is estimated at Rs. 1,39,500. The advance on this account is expected to be realised by the sale of vegetables. When the fruit trees begin to bear there will be a reasonable return of the capital.

Hill Paddy Cultivation—It was decided to lease out the lands cleared for the purpose of Hill Paddy Cultivation to the public for cultivation of food crops at nominal rates of rent. The Hill Paddy Cultivation scheme as a Government enterprise was, therefore, stopped. Large areas of lands were leased out to the public during the current year. Applications are being received for leasing out the remaining portions. This revised scheme whereby the difficult portion of the work of clearing the hills was done by Government and the land was leased out on easy terms, has already enhanced private initiative to take to Hill Paddy cultivation, and it is hoped that ere long the whole area earmarked for the purpose will be brought under private cultivation.

Goat-farming.—An experimental Goat Farm is arranged to be opened in the Central Farm at Ollukkara. 50 she-goats of the best milking qualities from various places in this State will be selected. A few he and she goats of the Jamne Pari and Barbari breed are being got down and it is proposed to get a mixed breed by the crossing of the local varieties with the improved breeds imported.

Dairy Farm.—Steps have been taken to improve the Dairy of the Central Farm and enlarge its activities. The Dairy was strengthened in 1118 by a small addition of cows and although attempts for further strengthening it were made, difficulties of getting the required transport permit delayed action in this direction. It is hoped that sufficient number for the purposes of strengthening the Dairy Farm will soon be purchased.

Demonstration and Publicity.—Since publicity and demonstration on the methods of cultivation and the scientific use of manures form an important aspect of the grow-more-food campaign, as many as 73 demonstration centres were opened in the State, besides the special demonstration conducted at the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition and Cattle-show held at Cherpu under the auspices of the National War Front. A Special Officer for Manure has also been appointed to facilitate the distribution and demonstration of manures and to educate the public on their proper use. Publicity is also being given regarding the scientific use of manures by the National War Front.

INDUSTRIES

Industrial Centre—Cottage Industries.—In the last budget it was proposed to organise various cottage industries in the Rural Industrial Centre at Cherpu. For this purpose, the office of the Assistant Director of Industries was shifted to this Centre, and he was put in charge of the work of organising and developing cottage industries through this Centre. During this year, the Centre, besides establishing and running cottage industries departmentally, has also organised artisans and rural workers in Co-operative Societies under the immediate supervision of Government. Manufacture of photo frames, lace garlands and caps, tooth powder, slates and slate pencils, dyeing, weaving and manufacture of shirting and clothing and other design works and oil pressing, are some of the industries pursued in this Centre.

Organisation of artisans.—The Centre is also organising co-operative societies of artisans. They are given accommodation in the Centre and are made to work under departmental supervision. Financial assistance in the shape of loan and organisation assistance in the shape of paid secretaries are also extended to them. The carpenters' society, the leather workers' society and the weavers' society are now functioning in the Centre successfully. Experiments and research in cottage industries are also being carried out.

Hand-made Paper.—A hand-made paper factory has been working for some time. Since difficulties were experienced in calendering, the Paper Expert was deputed to Bezwada and Mysore for further study and he has now returned and a scheme for the manufacture of half a ton of paper per day has been submitted. The difficulties in calendering will be met by the purchase of a calendering machine and certain other minor implements.

Industrial Museum.—Arrangements have been made to start an Industrial Museum at Trichur. The manufacture of show cases and the collection of certain items of local exhibits have been already finished. Some of the outside Governments have also been addressed for details of their important products.

FISHERIES

On experiments conducted, it has been proved that several species of shark, yielding large quantities of oil of medicinal value, are available in our sea and backwaters. Government have made arrangements for extracting fish-oil and for marketing it.

Attempts are made to increase the catching of fish. Provision has been made in the budget for 1120 to bring 10 fishermen from British Malabar, who are experts in using bigger nets for deep sea fishing, in order to conduct the operations in our waters experimentally and to give training to our fishermen in this direction. A new fish-curing yard is also proposed to be opened in the year 1120 at Kannamali in Kumbalanghi Village.

CO-OPERATION

The Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Co-operative movement in the State has submitted its report and the same is under consideration of Government. Some of the co-operative societies have played a prominent part in the distribution of seeds, clothes and other necessities. A few have also run fair price shops successfully.

PANCHAYATS

In my budget speech of year before last, I have made a special reference to an important reform introduced in the Panchayat administration by granting more financial powers to the Panchayats in that it is entirely left to them to prepare their own budgets. I was watching with anxiety the results of this experiment. It is a matter of supreme pleasure for me to inform the House now, that from my experience of the last two years it has been abundantly clear that the reform has been worked out successfully by the Panchayats.

With a view to grant more and more powers to Panchayats, a bill has been introduced in this House, and it is hoped that ere long, with the co-operation of this House, it will come into law.

RURAL LIBRARIES

20 additional rural libraries have been started during the year and provision for 20 more has been made for the coming year, which will raise the number of libraries to 203.

VILLAGE COURTS

The Village Courts Act is now one year old. In addition to the 35 courts which existed last year, 12 more courts have been sanctioned this year, and the opening of all the new courts will be completed before the close of the year. With the opening of these courts, all the villages in the State will be brought under one village court or another. One of the main purposes intended to be achieved by the constitution of village courts was to avoid delay in the disposal of suits. Out of the total number of 2285 suits, including 607 pending in 1118, as many as 1816 have been already disposed of till 31st Medam 1119, leaving a pendency of only 469 suits. It may be stated that the number of suits pending on 31st Medam 1118, soon after the constitution of village courts, was 1947. This will enable the House to have an idea of the progress made and the promptness achieved in the disposal of suits in the village courts. There is also considerable decrease in the number of revision petitions. A conference of village court judges was held in the current year in which representatives from many village courts participated. The conference was useful and successful. Provision has been made for a similar conference next year. An examination of the Agents of the village courts was also held.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Epidemics.—The outbreak of cholera which began towards the end of 1118 continued in the first quarter of 1119 also. Vigorous preventive measures were taken and the attack subsided without much spreading. 36,602 inoculations were conducted. Outbreak of plague also was reported in the outlying villages of Chittur Taluk. Prompt measures were adopted to prevent